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ROCHFORD
RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH

(W. J. MOFFAT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR

1952

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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.



STAFF

S. C. HARRIS, F.R.V.A., F.C.C.S., *Clerk to the Council*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health : W. J. Moffat, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (also Area Medical Officer and Divisional School Medical Officer South-East Essex, Essex County Council).

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods and, Petroleum Inspector : H. Jepson, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector : E. R. Shepherd, Cert.R.S.I.

Clerk and Typist : Mr. K. C. Gason.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

Engineer and Surveyor and Town Planning Officer : A. N. Box, M.I.Mun.E., A.M.T.P.I., M.R.San.I.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

COUNCIL OFFICES,

ROCHFORD.

July, 1953.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rochford Rural
District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you herewith my Annual Report for the year 1952 on the health and sanitary conditions of the Rochford Rural District.

The vital statistics for the district for 1952 show that there has been a slightly larger rise in the population than the average rise for past few years. The birth rate has, for the year 1952 at any rate, reversed the downward trend of the previous four years and the death rate has remained low. The latter might have been slightly lower had it not been for the recent ruling of the Registrar General that deaths of persons who have been living in accommodation provided under Part III of the National Assistance Act are no longer transferable to the area of that person's previous residence. Although the figures are too small to be used for the calculation of a 'rate' the continued decline in the numbers of children dying each year before attaining their first birthday is to be noted.

The incidence of infectious disease was low. For the second time in recent years there were eight cases of poliomyelitis in the District. All eight were paralytic cases and there were two deaths; a fatality rate about one third of that due to accidents in the home or on the roads in each of the past few years. The incidence of tuberculosis and the mortality of this disease continued to decline. The number of notifications of food poisoning was higher than usual—and needless to say higher than it should be. In nearly half the cases the offending food-stuff originated outside the District.

The provision of a proper standard of housing accommodation for residents of the District is one of the principal spheres of activity open to the Council in raising and maintaining the general level of health among the population of their District.

In so far as this can be achieved by the crection of new dwellings it can be recorded that the rate of Council House building over the past few years was maintained in 1952, while the number of houses built for private enterprise showed a considerable increase. The houses to be completed in both categories in 1953 should show a further considerable increase. There remains, however, the problem of remedying the defects in the older type of house in the District before they have reached a stage of such disrepair that repair becomes uneconomical and these houses have to be replaced by still more new ones.

The laying of main sewers which was in progress in the Hawkwell area during the year should lead to a needed improvement, by making available to residential areas so far without this amenity, the benefits of main drainage.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their help and support during the year. Thanks are also due to the Council's officers for their willing co-operation, and particular mention should be made of the assistance given by Mr. Jepson, Chief Sanitary Inspector, in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. MOFFAT.

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	36,080
Estimate of Resident Population, mid 1952 :	19,310
Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books at 31st December, 1952	6,306
	£ s. d.
Rateable Value 31st March, 1952	111,168 0 0
Product of a Penny Rate at 31st March, 1952	447 14 11

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

There has continued to be a steady decline in the average number of persons living in each inhabited house in the District. The figure for 1952 was 3.06 persons per house.

Agriculture and brick making continue to be the principal industries in the area. Of recent years there has been a slight increase in the number of small factories engaged in light industry and employing mostly female labour.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population, Birth and Death Rates in 1952 and previous years

In Table I on page 7 there are set out certain extracts from the vital statistics of the Rochford Rural District for the years 1939 to 1952 inclusive.

Deaths

In Table II on page 8 are given the causes of death of the 242 residents of the Rochford Rural District who died in 1952, whether the death occurred in the District or elsewhere in England and Wales. These figures have been supplied by the Registrar-General. It should be noted, however, that the Registrar-

General's office now considers that deaths occurring in accommodation provided under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948, are non-transferable. As such accommodation exists in the District exclusively for the reception of persons from outside the Rural District the effect of this change in policy is that a few more deaths of persons in the upper age groups are now recorded as deaths of residents than was formerly the case. Thus there were nine such deaths in 1952.

Of the 175 deaths in the age group 65 and upwards, 99 or 56.5 per cent. took place at home, while 60 or 34.3 per cent. took place in hospital.

Again the principal cause of death was diseases of the heart and circulatory system, followed by vascular lesions of the nervous system. Cancer was third in importance as a cause of death.

Ages at Death

The various ages at which the deaths of residents of the Rural District occurred in 1952 were as shown in the table below.

Age at Death					Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	2	2	4
1 and under 5	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
5 and under 15	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
15 and under 25	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
25 and under 45	...	...	...	...	9	3	12
45 and under 65	...	...	...	...	27	21	48
65 and under 75	...	...	...	...	40	33	73
75 and upwards	...	...	...	...	46	56	102
Totals					124	118	242

The deaths of persons aged 65 and upwards accounted for 72.3 per cent of all deaths, while the group aged 75 and upwards accounted for 42.1 per cent of the total. The corresponding figures for 1951 were 75 and 49 per cent respectively.

Births

The total of 290 births to residents of the District during 1952 was as follows :

	<i>Males</i>			<i>Females</i>		
Total	137	...	...	153
Legitimate	131	...	...	150
Illegitimate	6	...	...	3

There were five still births recorded in the District during the year 1952, four male and one female. One of the male still births was illegitimate.

Deaths of Infants Under One Year

The number of deaths of infants under one year old was four, all of whom were legitimate. All of these infant deaths occurred in the first four weeks of life.

TABLE I

Extracts from Vital Statistics for 1952 and Previous Years

Year	Population esti- mated mid. year	Births (Nett)			Deaths (Nett)					Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)	
		Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Rate, England and Wales	Under 1 year of age		At all ages				
					Number	Rate, England and Wales, per 1,000 "related" births.	Number	Rate per 1,000 estimated population	Standardised Death Rate		Rate, England and Wales
1939	16,920	251	14.8	14.8	12	51	183	10.8	8.4	12.1	68
1940	16,200	215	13.2	14.1	11	57	220	13.6	11.1	14.4	5
1941	15,070	238	15.5	13.9	8	60	205	13.6	11.1	13.5	33
1942	14,880	249	16.7	15.6	16	51	220	14.7	12.0	12.3	29
1943	14,450	280	19.3	16.2	8	49	209	14.4	11.8	13.0	71
1944	14,800	275	18.5	17.7	8	45	191	12.8	†	12.7	84
1945	15,240	264	17.3	15.9	14	46	220	14.4	†	12.6	44
1946	16,830	317	18.8	19.2	16	43	245	14.6	†	12.0	72
1947	17,480	380	21.1	20.5	10	41	255	14.5	†	12.3	125
1948	18,550	330	17.8	17.8	5	34	218	11.8	†	11.0	112
1949	18,700	323	17.3	16.7	4	32	234	12.5	9.6	11.8	89
1950	19,000	261	13.7*(15.1)	15.8†	9	29.8	255	13.4	10.3	11.6	6
1951	19,010	241	12.7*(13.8)	15.5	5	29.6	227	11.8	9.0	12.5	14
1952	19,310	290	15.0*(16.4)	15.3	4	27.6	242	13.0	9.9	11.3‡	48

‡Provisional.

†No Area Comparability Factor available for these years.

*The figures in brackets represent the birth rate when allowance is made for the differing age and sex distribution of the population of the District as compared with that of England and Wales.

TABLE II

Causes of Death of Residents 1952

The following table compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, is classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death 1948.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	3	0	3
Tuberculosis, Other	0	1	1
Syphilitic Disease	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	1	2
Measles	0	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	0	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	5	1	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	0	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	0	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	12	14	26
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	2	0	2
Diabetes	1	3	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	19	26	45
Coronary Disease, Angina	17	14	31
Hypertension with heart disease ...	4	3	7
Other heart disease	18	23	41
Other circulatory disease	6	4	10
Influenza	0	2	2
Pneumonia	8	4	12
Bronchitis	5	2	7
Other diseases of Respiratory System	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	3	1	4
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ...	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis	0	0	0
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	0	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	0	0	0
Congenital Malformations	1	2	3
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	8	10	18
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	0	1
All other accidents	2	2	4
Suicide	2	0	2
Homicide and operations of War ...	0	0	0
Totals	123	119	242

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Public Health Officers

For list see page 1.

There have been no changes under this heading during the year.

Laboratory Services

These remain unchanged from the services outlined in my annual report for 1950. The Public Health Laboratory Services Southend Laboratory has again proved of great value in several aspects of the work of the Department, and the Medical Director and his staff have at all times been most co-operative.

Local Health Authorities Services.

These services, which are provided by the Essex County Council under the National Health Service Act, 1946, include the provision of child welfare clinics weekly at Rochford Health Services Clinic, twice monthly in hired premises at Hullbridge, Hockley and Great Wakering, and monthly at Canewdon, Barling and Foulness. Vaccination and immunisation facilities are also available at these centres. Ante-natal clinics are held at Rochford and Great Wakering, while a similar clinic at Rayleigh serves part of Hockley and Hullbridge.

Weekly clinics for school childrens' minor ailments are also held at Rochford, Great Wakering and Rayleigh.

The Home Nursing and Midwifery services are provided by seven home nurse midwives resident in the area. Three health visitors are allotted to the Rural District.

National Assistance Act, 1948

No action was required during the year under section 47 of this Act to effect the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of proper care and attention, and who were not receiving this in their homes.

The accommodation provided under Part III of this Act by the Welfare Committee of the Essex County Council still lags considerably behind the demand, which itself is increasing yearly.

New Legislation.

The Essex County Council Act, 1952, reached the Statute Book on 1st August, 1952, and contained several provisions of a public health character which could be adopted by a Rural District Council. These provisions were being considered for adoption by the Council at the end of the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

In the tables on pages 13 and 14 are set out the classification of the infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, notified during the year in the District, according to ages and locality of residence.

Tuberculosis

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, came into operation on 1st May, 1952, superseding the corresponding regulations of 1930 and inter alia, making the keeping of a register of tuberculosis notifications no longer compulsory, although the continued usefulness of such a register is recognised.

Seventeen new cases were notified in the District during 1952, twelve of these being new cases notified for the first time and the remaining five being persons who had moved into the District after having been notified previously as suffering from the disease. Particulars of these new cases grouped as to sex and age are set out below.

Age	New Notifications				Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 — 10 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 — 15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 — 20 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 — 25 ...	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35 ...	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
35 — 45 ...	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
45 — 55 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ...	9	2	1	—	3	2	—	—

There were four deaths from tuberculosis during the year, three male suffering from the respiratory form of the disease and one female from the non-respiratory form.

During the year a further thirteen persons were removed from the Tuberculosis Register, three of whom had recovered from the disease, and ten others in whom the disease was still active, and who had gone to live elsewhere.

At the end of the year there were 114 cases on the Tuberculosis Register as compared with 113 at 1st January, 1952. These cases were classified as follows :

	<i>Respiratory</i>		<i>Non-Respiratory</i>	
	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1st January, 1952	57	41	5	10
31st December, 1952	68	39	2	5

Poliomyelitis

Eight confirmed cases of paralytic poliomyelitis occurred in the District in 1952 and two of these were fatal. There were no definite cases of the non-paralytic form of the disease.

Seven of the cases occurred in the Hockley and Hawkwell area in the period from August to November, while the eighth case was in Great Wakering in November. In two instances, two cases occurred in members of the same family. In one of these instances the infection was contracted at the same time by the two persons affected.

Many contacts of these cases and of other cases in adjoining districts were followed up during the period when the disease was present, in order to advise on precautions to be taken by these persons to prevent the spread of the disease. The possible source of infection was sought for in each case. There was one instance of definite case to case contact and presumptive evidence in another.

Food Poisoning

There were 21 notifications of food poisoning in the District in 1952, but there were no outbreaks. In nine cases, salmonella enteriditis was the agent, and in five, salmonella typhimurium. In the cases affected by salmonella enteriditis, and possibly in some others, the infecting agent was consumed in articles of food prepared outside the district.

Dysentery

Five of the eight cases of dysentery (Sonne) occurred in one patient and four members of the nursing staff in hospital. The other three were isolated cases one at least of which was suffering from the disease on arrival in the District.

Puerperal Pyrexia

The large number of notifications of puerperal pyrexia received is the result of the amendment of the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations as from 1st August, 1951. Notifications from the Maternity Unit in Rochford Hospital appears to have been meticulous.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1952 (EXCLUSIVE OF TUBERCULOSIS)

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 or over	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Acute Primary Pneumonia	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Dysentery ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	2	1	7	—
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—
Food poisoning ...	21	—	2	2	1	—	3	1	3	2	1	3	3	14	—
Measles ...	13	1	1	1	5	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Meningitis...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Poliomylitis ...	8	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	7	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	121	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	94	14	—	—	119	—
Scarlet Fever ...	56	—	3	8	2	13	25	3	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough ...	72	5	14	5	9	23	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	304	6	20	18	17	39	48	6	18	107	15	7	5	151	2

Table Shewing Local Distribution of Cases of Notifiable Disease (Other than Tuberculosis) During 1952.

PARISH or part of Parish	Acute Primary Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Food Poisoning	Meningococcal Meningitis	Measles	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Poliomylitis	Dysentery	Total
Ashingdon	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Fambridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Barling	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	7	—	—	13
Little Wakering	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	7
Canewdon	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Foulness	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hawkwell	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hockley	1	—	1	—	—	—	5	—	1	—	8
Hullbridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	1	8
Paglesham	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Rochford	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	4	—	—	8
Stambridge	—	—	16	—	6	121	29	17	—	6	195
Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
Great Wakering	1	—	—	1	2	—	12	39	1	—	56
TOTAL	2	2	21	1	13	121	56	72	8	8	304

HOUSING

Housing Inspections

The following table shows the findings resulting from the housing inspections and reinspections made during the year and the subsequent action taken in the various instances.

1.	(1)	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	15
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	11
	(3)	Number of dwelling houses (Exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	89
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :		
		Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	46
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :		
	(A)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	8
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
	(a)	By owners	8
	(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
	(B)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
	(a)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
	(b)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—

- (c) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted not to be used for human habitation

3

4. Other Informal Action :

- (a) Three dwelling houses and one houseboat were demolished in consequence of informal action
(b) Undertakings not to relet unfit properties were accepted from owners in respect of two houses.

New Buildings

In the District during the year 69 new houses were completed for the Council and a further 35 for private owners.

The Council had an additional 144 new houses under construction at the end of 1952, all of which it is anticipated will have been completed by the end of 1953.

Council-owned Houses

The table below shows the number and type of dwellings owned by the Rochford Rural District Council in each parish in the District at the end of 1952. Temporary dwellings are not included in the table, but, at the end of the year 61 families were still housed in converted war-time hutments.

Parish	Number of Non-parlour Type	Number of Parlour Type	Totals
Ashingdon	—	36	36
Barling Magna	16	8	24
Canewdon	43	12	55
Foulness	—	—	—
Hawkwell	—	26	26
Hockley (including Hullbridge)	—	10	10
Paglesham	12	—	12
Rochford	114	228	342
Stambridge	28	10	38
Sutton	—	—	—
Great Wakering	106	60	166
Totals	319	390	709

The total number of houses includes 32 small bungalows for aged persons, 12 being in Rochford and 20 in Great Wakering. Although no new bungalows for aged persons were completed in 1952, the Council had decided to erect some of these at both Rochford and Great Wakering during 1953.

Housing Act, 1949

During the year a number of enquiries were received regarding Improvement Grants under this Act, but to the end of the year no firm applications had materialised.

Repair of Houses.

The older type property continues to be a constant source of complaint on the part of many tenants, due to the owners' natural reluctance to effect comparatively expensive repairs owing to the restricted rents which they are allowed to charge.

In the worst cases, the appropriate action would appear to be for the Council to proceed under Section 11, Housing Act 1936, and then to secure undertakings or demolition orders on these properties. Unless, however, the Council at the same time undertakes to rehouse the tenants from these properties little progress can be made. It is to be hoped, that in the near future, the housing position will have so far improved that the Housing Committee will be able to rehouse tenants in such cases at the same time as the property is being dealt with by the Public Health Committee under Section 11. This will enable the detailed inspection of unfit houses to be carried out on these properties, which were provisionally placed in Category 5, as being unfit, when the Rural Housing Survey was carried out in 1947-48.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

An outline of the main water supplies of the Rochford Rural District was given in my Annual Report for 1949, and subsequent extensions have been noted in the appropriate years. In 1952, a water main 637 yards in length was laid in Pooles Lane, Hullbridge, by the Southend Waterworks Company, the Council guaranteeing the cost. Other lengths of main were laid to serve various housing estates. There were 127 new connections made to the water mains in the District during the year and, in addition, 17 houses which previously relied on standpipe supplies were provided with a piped water supply inside the house. The total length of the water mains in the District at the end of 1952 was 89 miles, 830 yards.

Frequent samples of the raw water, and of the main water as supplied to consumers, are taken by the statutory water undertakers, the Southend Waterworks Company for examination in their own laboratory. In addition from time to time samples are submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories for examination. A copy of a report from the Counties Public

Health Laboratories on the chemical analysis and bacteriological examination of a sample of main water taken on 21st July, 1952, from the Southend Waterworks Company's mains is set out on pages 18 and 19.

There was no contamination of the main water supply during the year. The waters forming the main supply are not liable to have any plumbo-solvent action.

WATER ANALYSIS

Copy of a report by Counties Public Health Laboratories on a sample of water taken from mains of the Southend Waterworks Company, 21st July, 1952.

Chemical results in parts per Million

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Bright with a very few mineral particles
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Less than 3
Colour	...	...	...	...	Less than 10
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Reaction, pH	...	...	...	...	8.5
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	Absent
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	475
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	320
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	62
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	17
Hardness : Total	...	...	...	...	130
Carbonate	...	...	...	...	17
Non-carbonate	...	...	...	...	113
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	3.4
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	Less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.010
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.059
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.60
Residual Chlorine (at time of sampling)	...	...	...	...	Absent
Metals : Iron	...	...	...	...	0.03
Other Metals	...	...	...	...	Absent

Bacteriological Results

No. of Colonies developing on			
Agar :			
1 day at 37°C.		0 per ml.	
2 days at 37°C.		0 per ml.	
3 days at 20°C.		1 per ml.	
		<i>Present</i>	<i>Absent</i>
		<i>in</i>	<i>from</i>
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes			<i>Probable</i>
Reaction	—ml.	100 ml.	<i>number</i>
Bact. coli (Type 1)	—ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
C1. welchii Reaction	100 ml.	10 ml.	0 per 100 ml.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, faintly alkaline in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. Its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents are very moderate. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These are very satisfactory results indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Signed : ROY C. HOATHER.

31st July, 1952.

The Counties Public Health Laboratories.

Main Water Supplies in the District

The table on page 20 shows, for each of the eleven parishes of the Rochford Rural District, the number of houses and the estimated population served by a main water supply at the end of the year 1952.

From the table it will be noted that 94.9 per cent of all houses in the Rochford Rural District have their own piped main water supply, while a further 1.5 per cent obtain main water from standpipes which are either within the curtilage of the property, or which have been erected by the Council in the roadside at the end of existing water mains. A main water supply is now available to 98.9 per cent of all dwellings in the District, although some owners have not yet connected their houses to the mains.

Shallow Well Supplies

There was no decrease during 1952 in the number of shallow wells in the District still being used for domestic supplies. Apart from a few houses beyond the ends of the water mains which are dependent on shallow wells for their supplies, there were, at the end of the year the following house properties on the line of the existing water mains which still relied on shallow wells for their supply.

Great Wakering	...	...	10	Rochford	...	...	5
Barling Magna	...	...	10	Canewdon	...	...	1
Stambridge	...	...	3				

The majority of the above properties are owner occupied, and in such cases the owners have been reluctant to connect to the main water supply because of the expense involved and the lack, up to the present, of a main sewer.

Six samples of water from six of the shallow wells in use in the District were taken for bacteriological examination during the year, and of these samples two were reported by the Public Health Laboratory as being unsatisfactory. The unsatisfactory samples showed the presence of coliform organisms in more than minimal quantities, and the respective occupiers have been advised not to use raw water from these wells.

MAIN WATER SUPPLIES

Houses and Population in Each Parish on Main Supply, 1952.

Parish	No. of Houses	Estimated Population	Houses on Main Supply	Estimated Population on Main Supply	Houses Supplied by Standpipe	Estimated Population Supplied by Standpipe
Ashingdon (including South Fambridge)	441	1,352	397	1,214	4 + 8*	12 + 25
Barling Magna (including Little Wakering)	312	956	263	805	13	40
Canewdon ...	266	816	248	759	6	18
Foulness†	114	350	109	334	5	15
Great Wakering ...	937	2,867	905	2,770	—	—
Hawkwell ...	999	3,055	986	3,016	6 + 1*	18 + 3
Hockley (including Hullbridge)	1,308	4,004	1,258	3,849	13 + 3*	40 + 9
Paglesham ...	113	347	78	239	2	6
Rochford ...	1,588	4,866	1,539	4,709	33	101
Stambridge...	151	461	132	404	—	—
Sutton ...	77	236	75	230	—	—
	6,306	19,310	5,990	18,329	82 + 12*	250 + 37

*Council standpipes on roadside. Others are in curtilage of private properties.

†War Department Mains.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Sewerage

In the parish of Hawkwell work was in progress throughout the year on the laying of the undernoted sewers.

1. Intercepting sewer from Victor Gardens to Thorpe Road.
2. Valley sewer from Main Road to Sunny Road.
3. Intercepting sewer from Hawkwell Chase to Belchamps Way.
4. Intercepting sewer from Tudor Way to Hillside Avenue.

The total length of these four extensions is 1,800 yards. The work should be completed in the early part of 1953. The proposed scheme for Eastbury Avenue, which would link up with development in the industrial estate in Rochford, has been left in abeyance for the present.

In Hockley parish the scheme for sewerage Hullbridge is awaiting an agreement between the Council and Rayleigh U.D.C., to be entered into when the latter Council have been able to modify their existing disposal works. The scheme for the sewerage of Folly Lane, although approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, was later deferred after the receipt of tenders because of the subsequent curtailment of capital expenditure. In the privately developed estate of Broadlands 300 yards of sewer were laid during the year.

In the parish of Stambridge, the work of laying the 525 yards of main sewer was completed in 1951, but the pumping station serving this sewer did not come into operation until June, 1952.

New sewers, laid to serve housing sites in Rochford parish during 1952 totalled 530 yards in length.

New Connections to Sewers, 1952

The number and locations of house drainage connections to the main sewers which were made during the year were as follows :

EXISTING DWELLINGS					
<i>Parish</i>				<i>No. of Connections</i>	
Hockley	9
NEW DWELLINGS					
Rochford	53
Hawkwell	5
Hockley	7
Great Wakering	14
Ashingdon	2
Stambridge	10

Sewage Disposal Works

There were no major alterations or additions during the year to the Council's Sewage Disposal Works at Stambridge and Great Wakering and conditions remained substantially the same as outlined in my report for 1951. The two small plants at Sutton and Canewdon continued in operation during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

As from 1st October, 1952, the newly constituted Essex Rivers Board assumed statutory responsibility in this area for the prevention of river pollution and other functions conferred upon it by the River Boards Act, 1948 and the Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1951.

Any proposals for sewerage and sewage disposal which entail discharge of effluents or alterations in existing discharges into rivers and streams in the area must now be submitted to the Board prior to being forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government.

There have been no instances of any gross pollution of rivers and streams in the Rural District during 1952.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The house refuse collection and pail closet collection services, provided by the Council continued in 1952 on the same lines as in the previous few years. The table below shows the extent of these services in the various parishes in the District in 1952. There was an increase of 104 in the number of houses from which refuse was collected as compared with the previous year.

Parish	House Refuse No. of Houses Collected		Pail Closet No. of Houses Collected	
	14 day	7 day	Twice Weekly	Weekly
Ashingdon	229	—	39	4
Barling Magna	298	—	161	—
Canewdon	251	—	92	19
Foulness	110	—	—	—
Hawkwell	755	—	11	—
Hockley	1,022	—	99	16
Paglesham	108	—	74	—
Rochford	1,194	387	14	26
Stambridge... ..	145	—	52	—
Sutton	75	—	28	—
Wakering, Great	927	—	78	—
TOTALS	5,114	387	648	65

Salvage Collection

The Council continued to collect salvage as heretofore. The amount of salvage collected totalled 74 tons. 14 cwts. 3 qrs. 7 lbs., and the value was £652 3s. 9d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The table below shows the number and nature of the inspections made by the Council's Inspectors, and the notices, formal and informal, served under the relevant enactments during the year, following on those visits.

Nature of Inspection	Total Inspec- tions	Notices Served	
		Informal	Formal
Bakehouses	12	2	—
Camping Sites	48	—	—
Dairies	6	—	—
Damage by Pests Act 1949	502	16	—
Disinfections	34	—	—
Disinfestations	2	2	—
Diseases of Animals Acts	5	—	—
Drainage and Cesspools	304	79	3
Factories Act 1937	53	7	—
Food Storage and Preparation Premises	241	6	—
Hairdressers	3	—	—
House Refuse Removal	40	16	—
Housing and Public Health Acts ...	665	77	9
Housboats	8	—	—
Hydrogen Cyanide Fumigation Regula- tions	2	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	28	4	—
Ice Cream Samples	23	—	—
Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning enquiries	199	—	—
Knackers Yards	5	—	—
Licensed Premises	6	—	—
Milk Samples	8	—	—
Miscellaneous	300	—	—
Moveable Dwellings	127	5	—
National Assistance Act 1948	2	—	—
Nuisances, Public Health Act	102	6	3
Outworkers (Factories Act 1937) ...	12	—	—
Pet Animals Act 1951	12	—	—
Petroleum Acts	42	1	—
Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act 1951	1	—	—
Rehousing Enquiries	60	—	—
Schools	24	—	—
Shops Act	8	—	—
Water Courses	12	5	—
Water Samples	9	—	—
Water Supplies	74	5	4
Totals	2,979	231	19

Rodent Control

As in the past few years, the Council continued to give a free treatment service to householders, and to make a charge for treatments given to business premises. In order to enable owners and occupiers to carry out their obligations under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, the Council have made the services of one of their employees available to undertake this work.

Sewage works, sewers and refuse tips have, as in previous years, been treated by the Council's employees as the occasion demands.

In the table below are given details of the number of inspections and treatments carried out during 1952. The number of infestations found and treatments given is a little higher than in 1951.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949 Year ended 31st December, 1952

	TYPE OF PROPERTY				
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business and Industrial)	Total
1 Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	14	6197	416	405	7032
2 Number of Properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result (a) of Notification or (b) otherwise	(a) —	51	3	23	77
	(b) *	158	26	241	425
3 Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by rats	Major —	—	—	—	—
	Minor 14	63	3	30	96
4 Number of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice	—	—	—	—	—
5 Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority ...	14	52	3	23	78
6 Number of notices served under Section 4					
(1) Treatment	Informal	4	—	12	16
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—

* Council's Refuse Tips and Sewerage Works are inspected daily.

Moveable Dwellings and Camping Sites

In 1952, the four licensed caravan sites in the District continued in use. On these four sites, approximately 140 caravans are in occupation throughout the year. Each of the four sites is equipped with main water, ablution blocks and, in three cases, baths with hot and cold water. One site is connected to the main sewer, the others are served by cesspools.

In addition to the above sites the Council during the year issued annual licenses, under the Public Health Act 1936, to 28 individual applicants, to enable them to station moveable dwellings on various single sites throughout the District. In all such instances the provision of an adequate water supply and satisfactory sanitary accommodation has been insisted upon.

Schools

Various visits were paid to the schools in the District in regard to matters concerning sanitation and canteen hygiene.

Factories

The table on page 26 gives details of the inspections made by the Council's Officers at factories in the Rochford Rural District during the year. As will be seen, there are comparatively few factories without mechanical power; i.e., factories where the local authority is responsible for certain health provisions, such as heating, lighting, water supply and ventilation, as well as for sanitary accommodation, with which latter they are concerned in all cases. The few factories without mechanical power, comprise in the main, the smaller bakehouses and garages.

Inspections were also made at factories in the District, and of plans of new factories proposed to be built, with regard to the provisions necessary for means of escape in case of fire. The Council have designated their Sanitary Inspector to carry out this work. Close co-operation is maintained with the Chief Fire Officer of the Essex County Council in respect of these matters.

None of the factories situated in the Rural District, employ any outworkers. From lists supplied by other local authorities it appeared that there were 30 outworkers employed in the District, nearly all of whom were engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	14	12	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	35	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority, (Excluding out-workers' premises)	4	6	2	—
Total	70	53	7	—

2. Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Reme'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient ...	3	2	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	5	4	—	2	—

Shops

There are comparatively few premises in the Rural District to which those provisions of the Shops Act, in regard to sanitary accommodation, heating and ventilation are applicable. In all cases, i.e., where there are employees, the arrangements are generally satisfactory.

The majority of visits paid to shops are in connection with the storage of food and its preparation for human consumption, under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act 1938, and the Byelaws made in 1950.

Port Sanitary Regulations

There is one berth in the Rochford Rural District, on the River Crouch to which an occasional foreign-going ship brings a cargo of timber. This berth is in the customs port of Maldon but this Council is the sanitary authority.

Rag Dealing

During the year the Council decided to prosecute on the evidence of the Sanitary Inspector, a rag dealer discovered exchanging toys for rags. A fine of £2 was imposed under Section 154 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk and Dairies

There were six registered retail milk purveyors operating in the Rochford Rural District during the year. Three other firms having their premises outside the District were granted supplementary licenses by the Council to retail sterilised, pasteurised, and tuberculin tested milk. In the Rural District a further 28 dealers licences for sterilised milk, two for pasteurised milk, and two for tuberculin tested milk were granted by the Council during 1952 to dealers who had premises in the District.

In the case of the six retailers mentioned above, the milks supplied by them to the public were as follows :

<i>Retailer</i>	<i>Milks Retailed</i>
A and B	Pasteurised, Sterilised, T.T.
C, D and E	Pasteurised, Sterilised, T.T., Non-designated.
F	Pasteurised, Sterilised, T.T., Non-designated.*

*Bought pasteurised in bulk, bottled on premises and sold as non-designated.

In addition there are two producer purveyors, one supplying tuberculin tested and non-designated, and the other non-designated milk.

Routine samples of milk as supplied to consumers in the District are taken for bacteriological examination and for the methylene blue and phosphatase tests. All samples taken in 1952 were satisfactory. Samples are also taken to check the efficacy of bottle washing facilities at retail premises.

Meat

As in previous years there were six private slaughterhouses and one knackers yard licensed by the Council during the year. The slaughterhouses were again only used for emergency killing, and the slaughtering of a limited number of pigs under Ministry of Food permits, granted for the slaughter of privately owned pigs. There is no Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the Rural District, which is served by the Ministry's slaughterhouses in other Districts.

The only animals killed for human consumption in the Rochford Rural District in 1952 were 14 pigs, and of these no carcase or part of a carcase was condemned.

Inspection of meat exposed for sale in butchers' shops is undertaken by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors during routine visits to these shops, and when specially called in by traders. In this category the following meat was condemned in the District during 1952 as unfit for human consumption :

Beef 149lbs ; Liver 47 lbs ; Mutton 142lbs ; Pork 18½lbs.

Bakehouses

Advisory visits were paid as usual to each of the ten bakehouses in the District during the year.

Ice Cream

There was only one manufacturer of ice cream registered in the District in 1952 under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933. Manufacture was not on any large scale, and the cold mix method was employed in this instance. Sixty eight vendors of ice cream in the District were also registered, and increase of seven on the previous year.

Visits continued to be paid by the Council's Inspectors to all premises handling ice cream, for the purpose of advising on methods, the use of detergents and the storage and handling of the article. The majority of vendors are increasingly obtaining the pre-packed article which does of course decrease the amount of handling to which the ice cream is subject and thereby diminishes the likelihood of contamination.

The following table shows the results obtained by the Public Health Laboratory, Southend, from the samples submitted from this District during 1952.

1. From Manufacturers.

Manufacturer	No. of Samples	Grading on Methylene Blue Test			
		I	II	III	IV
A	3	2	0	1	0
Total	3	2	0	1	0

2. From Retailers.

	No. of Samples	Grading on Methylene Blue Test			
		I	II	III	IV
Total	20	12	5	3	0

This was the first year when no samples were found in the lowest grade, i.e. Grade IV.

Shellfish

The shellfish layings at Paglesham in the River Roach are under the control of the Port of London Health Authority. There are similar layings in the River Crouch but no landings from these are made in the Rochford Rural District.

Other Foodstuffs

Regular inspections are also carried out by the Council's Inspectors at other food premises in the District. The table below shows the amount of various foodstuffs found, upon inspection, to be unfit for human consumption.

<i>Tinned Foods</i>		<i>Fresh Foods</i>	
Meat	68 tins	Butter	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Milk	16 tins	Bacon	15lbs.
Fish	10 tins		
Fruit	48 tins		
Vegetables	61 tins		

